

In Honour of Black History Month

Meditation February 28, 2021

Welcome to our celebration of Black History Month.

The Black History Month celebration began as an effort to recognize the many contributions of African-Americans to the economic and social development of North America. Many Africans were brought to this continent as slaves, kept in bondage, and denied basic civil rights. Especially this month, our children have been learning about famous African-Americans and Black Canadians and their contributions to our culture. Also, they are learning about their Christian faith and how it motivated their lives and their work.

Black History Month is more than a celebration of the many accomplishments made by Black people. It is a reminder of God's love, and helps us in which direction we should go as Christians. We remember and celebrate the powerful work of God in and through the lives of influential African Americans and Black Canadians.

Today, we take this time of worship to celebrate our Black sisters and brothers, because I believe this is very important in creating ONE SOLID CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. As we are listening to God's message about unity, we are gaining new perspectives which will enrich our understanding about Him, about each other and about our responsibilities.

Celebrating Black History Month is an opportunity for all Christians to dig deeper into their hearts and to realize that there are no differences between us, no matter what skin colour we have. This celebration offers us an opportunity to celebrate those who were fighting for equality amongst people, who raised their voices, their pens in their writings, and their voices in preaching about equality.

I read a short story, which brought tears in my eyes. "I'll never forget the first time somebody told me I was a dark and worthless nobody and had no value due to the colour of my skin. And in my little eight year old voice with my little scrawny eight year old arms, I put my hands on my scrawny hips and told that grown White person: "But that's not what Jesse Jackson said! And that's not what Rev. Woolfolk said. And that's not what my Daddy said. I AM somebody and don't you forget it." (Author unknown)

There are a lot of problems in our world. People are divided down political, religious, and even racial lines. However, God has commanded us to put aside our

prejudices and look on one another with His eyes. We are all the sons and daughters of God, and in Christ, we are a family. So, let us celebrate Black History Month by remembering that we are similar in God's eyes and we have to look at each other with the same love. Only with LOVE can we work together to build a better future.

Today, here at Calvin, we are celebrating all those who extended their arms towards each other to embrace and to show love towards all members of our Calvin family.

Our Saviour said: "This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command... Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me." - John 15:12-15

As we celebrate Black History Month here as the Calvin family, we are appreciating differences, and celebrating similarities. We are conscious of the important role our diverse community has to play in Kitchener and in many people's lives. Black History Month reminds us of the inherent value of all people, and that every person on this earth deserves a standing ovation in their lives.

Here, in our congregation, our greatest strength is our INCLUSIVE and unconditional LOVE. This awesome and noble privilege of being in God's service starts with appreciating our differences and celebrating the many similarities that connect us. All of us, no matter our origin, look up to people like we are God's children, and saved by the same Christ Jesus on the cross.

By our Lord, we are commanded to love each other in the same way Jesus loved us.

We all have to offer PURE and SACRED LOVE to everybody. Only LOVE can change the dynamics of the relationship and often results in reciprocal kindness. Only in LOVE is selflessness and generosity.

Above all, before all, and through it all, we HAVE to love one another. Love is the answer to nearly any question. By doing so, we will brighten the life of anyone we are involved with, and as we practice living the way Jesus taught, we will see more of Him in our friends, and they will see more of Him in us.

We have not only to celebrate but to live showing constant love to all God's children. We have to love as we want to be loved.

Here at Calvin, we are engaged to remain a loving and embracing family of diverse people from various backgrounds. Calvin Presbyterian Church is OUR congregation: YOURS and MINE.

Showing and living in true love is the frame of Christian faith. Our faith and love have to show the testament to the power of the gospel.

“Let truth destroy the dividing prejudice of nationality and teach universal love without distinction of race, merit or rank.” Carter G. Woodson

May the Lord teach us all to love others the way Jesus loves us. Let us continue to build relationships with others. Let them see you in the extent of your generosity, your kindness, and the depths of your love. All of those things are only possible through Jesus Christ who abides with us and calls us friend. Amen.